

A graphic of musical notation, including a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and various notes and rests, arranged in a circular, swirling pattern.

# esprit orchestra

alex pauk **music** director **and** conductor

08•09

next concert friday may 1, 2009

## Demon

RYAN SCOTT percussion   ERICA GOODMAN harp  
THE NATHANIEL DETT CHORALE,   DOUG SCHMIDT bandoneon

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts

DEAR FRIENDS,

**Saidôki (Demon)**, Maki Ishii's concerto for percussion and orchestra, strides two musical worlds in multi-layered time and sonic textures. Combining Western compositional methods with elements of Japanese traditional music, the late Japanese composer's piece also calls for the cidelo, a rare and unusual instrument created by his friend, metal sculptor Kazuo Harada. Cidelos are octagonal or rectangular metal boxes with ornate artistic cuts in their top surfaces creating metal sections, that, when struck, create vivid colours and a rich array of pitches. Esprit member Ryan Scott, featured as soloist, will play a set of these instruments, one of only two sets available in the world (placed on timpani heads), in a highly improvisational manner. **Saidôki**, a work of great power and deep mystery, is being given its North American premiere by Esprit.

Chris Paul Harman has just finished his **Concerto for Harp and Orchestra** commissioned by Esprit to feature another member of the orchestra as a soloist, Juno award-winning harpist Erica Goodman. When asked to provide a thumbnail sketch about it he wrote: "The work is based on Bach's chorale *Gott Lebet Noch*, and may end up taking that title, but I still can't confirm this. The ensemble is not huge, but the instrumental timbres are subtly contrasted, and rarified, often expanding or contrasting with the harp's natural sonority. The middle section of the work features polyrhythmic writing of a type that has been rare in my music to date."

Douglas Schmidt's **Discouraged Passion**, commissioned by Esprit, features The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Canada's first choir dedicated to Afrocentric music. The chorale joins Esprit and the composer himself playing bandoneon. This highly idiosyncratic piece, amply laced with humour, uses a text Doug found (maxixi Portuguese lyrics from around 1900) allowing him to create something with a Brazilian feel. It depicts the following: "A guy is dumping his girlfriend. He doesn't really want to but is getting a lot of grief from her parents. Her father makes him tremble and suffer. He can't go into her house and feels like running away. He will probably get beaten up by a street gang. He thinks of the girl's mother as not a woman but as a fierce, cruel viper from hell who only brings bad luck. With such parents, the girl will die without children. The boyfriend is so frustrated that he wants to tear his shirt off."

Please join us for this wonderful Season Finale.

ALEX PAUK music director and conductor

### THREE PREMIERES ON THIS CONCERT

Sounds of East – Sounds of West

**Saidôki (Demon) by Maki Ishii** • North American Premiere

Exquisite Harp Playing

**Concerto for Harp and Orchestra by Chris Paul Harman** • World Premiere

Maxixi Style

**Discouraged Passion by Douglas Schmidt** • World Premiere

**espritorchestra.com**

**tickets**

adult \$32, senior \$24, student \$15

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**Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts**

27 Front Street East, Toronto 8 pm concert / 7:15 pm pre-concert talk

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